

eight years, a member of the Pennsylvania delegation for 20 years, a congressional contact for PAMED, and member on the American Society for Surgery of the Hand's Council on Government Relations.

Fortunately for our community, Dr. Gurman's achievements are not limited to his medical involvement, as he has also served as a professional chair for the United Way campaign, and a member of the board of trustees of the Altoona Symphony Orchestra.

It is with great pleasure that I highlight Dr. Gurman's inauguration to the presidency of the American Medical Association and commend him for his capacity to serve the 9th Congressional District in so many ways. I have no doubt he will continue to make an impact on our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RICHARD L. HANNA

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2016

Mr. HANNA. Mr. Speaker, on Roll Call Number 171 on H.R. 4498, I am not recorded because I was absent for personal reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted Aye.

HONORING MR. BOB EPLING

HON. CARLOS CURBELO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2016

Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Mr. Bob Epling as he retires from his post as Chairman and CEO of Community Bank, a bank created with the intentions of being owned and operated by the community. Mr. Epling, who held his post since 1977, has always pushed the limits of what it means to be a business owner, and has used his means to serve the community. He has been acknowledged countless times for his service to the South Florida community, including his most recent recognition for excellence in community service by the Dade County Farm Bureau.

Mr. Epling has always been firmly rooted in the South Florida community, evident through his role as President of the Florida Bankers Association and Orange Bowl Committee, as well as Chairman of the 1996 South Florida Olympic Soccer Organizing Committee. He also served as the Chairman of the Board of the International Hurricane Research Center for 20 years. In that role, Mr. Epling worked tirelessly to advance research for mitigating storm damage, which he witnessed firsthand when assisting with rebuilding efforts in Homestead after Hurricane Andrew.

It is an honor for me to recognize Mr. Bob Epling on the occasion of his retirement for all of his service to the community of South Florida for more than three decades.

FOOTHILLS ANIMAL SHELTER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2016

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud the Foothills Animal Shelter for receiving the Golden Rotary Ethics in Business Award.

The Ethics in Business Award was established by the Golden Rotary to honor for profit and non-profit businesses. The recipients of this award must maintain integrity, conviction and possess high ethical standards, demonstrated by treatment of customers, employees, community and the environment.

Since its creation in 1976, the Foothills Animal Shelter (then known as the Jefferson Animal Center) has dedicated itself to providing the best possible care for every animal that comes through its doors. The organization cares for more than 9,500 animals every year and never turns an orphaned animal away. With the completion of its 33,000 square foot facility in 2010, the organization significantly improved care by adding a new medical suite to offer more on-site, cost-effective care and increasing the number of spays and neuters.

Congratulations to the Foothills Animal Shelter for receiving this well-deserved honor by the Golden Rotary, and thank you to all the employees for their continued commitment to our community and the animals they serve.

TRIBUTE TO MR. MICHAEL S. WILSON, PRESIDENT, GD-OTS

HON. DAVID W. JOLLY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2016

Mr. JOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a gentleman who has dedicated his life to serving our nation—a true American leader and hero who hails from the state of Florida, Mr. Michael S. Wilson. Mike is retiring from General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical Systems (GD-OTS) after forty-seven years of service to our warfighters and the defense industry. He currently serves as president of GD-OTS, a position he has held since 2001.

Mike has distinguished himself throughout his career, most notably by developing and fielding over 15 programs to our armed forces. The latest example of Mike's leadership is the fielding of the Ground Mobility Vehicle 1.1 program to the US Special Operations Command (USSOCOM).

Mike led the highly successful merger of GD Armament and Technical Products (GDATP) and GD-OTS companies in 2013—resulting in present day GD-OTS. His efforts created significant synergy savings and efficiencies that directly benefitted GD-OTS customers and shareholders resulting in improved service to the customer. Under Mike's astute and hands-on leadership, GD-OTS revenue rose over 500 percent since acquisition in 2001. Mike created a persistent priority and focuses on safety across GD-OTS and accumulated an unparalleled safety record by any industry standards.

One of Mike's proudest career achievements can be framed by the performance of

OTS during the urgent ramp-up required to meet surging demand of Operation Iraqi Freedom/Operation Enduring Freedom (OIF/OEF). Virtually overnight, Mike oversaw the ramp-up of all GD-OTS production lines to provide ammunition when it was needed the most.

During his career at GD, Mike led the effort to grow GD-OTS' organic production capabilities. With deft precision and timing, Mike skillfully invested in facility expansion and organic capabilities to achieve strategic vertical integration. This resulted in a dramatic expansion of core competencies and several new production franchises for GD-OTS.

Mr. Speaker, the Munitions Industrial Base, commercial industry, and each branch of our Armed Forces will miss Mike Wilson's leadership. As a nation, let us recognize his intrepid service and dedication to the mission of supporting our warfighters. And I ask that this body join me in honoring and congratulating Mr. Mike S. Wilson on a most honorable, truly energetic, and innovative career.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "INVESTING IN AMERICA'S SMALL BUSINESSES ACT OF 2016"

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2016

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Investing in America's Small Businesses Act of 2016. This important legislation allows Community Development Financial Institutions, known as CDFIs, to extend affordable credit to more small businesses in underserved communities through microloans. These small loans, under \$50,000, give businesses working capital, help them invest in new equipment or supplies, and have no pre-payment penalties.

I'm proud that the Investing in America's Small Business Act has gained the endorsements of the CDFI Coalition and the National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions, the national voices for these community-based institutions.

The bill provides grants for CDFIs to establish loan-loss reserve funds for microloans, which will help CDFIs leverage private investment to expand small business lending in underserved communities.

Small businesses are critical engines of economic development and job creation. In underserved communities, however, small businesses with low-income and minority owners often have limited access to affordable credit they need to meet everyday demands or expand their operations. According to a study commissioned by the U.S. Small Business Administration in 2013, "the major constraint limiting the growth, expansion, and wealth creation of small firms—especially women- and minority-owned businesses—is inadequate capital."

Community Development Financial Institutions serve exactly these communities—with great success and economic benefit. In fact, a 2014 report by the Darden School of Business at the University of Virginia found that despite serving predominately low-income markets, CDFI banks and credit unions had virtually the same level of performance as mainstream financial institutions. Despite this demonstrated